

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Confirmation No.: 8180

Seal, et al.

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Docket No. 190251-1740 (BS-97056)

For: **OUTSIDE PLANT CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND METHODS**

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

~~PROPOSED CLAIMS FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY~~

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A system for use in facilitating managing a job, the system comprising:

a bid and award application executed by a computer for generating bid packages for a job and for receiving completed bids, wherein the bid and award application stores at least one previous bid that was made on the job and awards the job based on the at least one previous bid;

a job entry application executed by a computer for defining at least one task within the job and determining whether the task should be accomplished by a contractor;

a scheduling application executed by a computer for assigning personnel to the at least one task;

a materials management application executed by a computer for assigning any needed materials to the at least one task; and

an interface for receiving updates on the status of the at least one task, wherein the interface includes a billing and reporting application for receiving input from the contractor as to completed tasks and billings.

wherein if the billings vary from a billing expectation of the system, the variations are sent by the billing and reporting application to a supervisor for approval, wherein upon approval of the supervisor or no variations, the billing and reporting application prepares an invoice for payment.

6. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 5, further including a pricing application executed by a computer for assigning a cost to the at least one task.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 5, further including a regional contracts application executed by a computer for providing a contract template for use by the bid and award application.
9. (Previously Presented) The system as forth in claim 8, wherein the bid and award application is for generating the bid packages by adding contract work items and contractor information to the contract template.
10. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the job entry application is for configuring the at least one task into activities and for chronologically scheduling the activities based on desired completion dates of the activities.
11. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 6, wherein the pricing application is for assigning labor and material costs to the at least one task.
12. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the scheduling application is for assigning personnel to the at least one task based on worker profiles indicating availability of the personnel.

13. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the materials management application is for tracking materials within inventory.
14. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the materials management application is for assigning materials in inventory to the at least one task.
15. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the materials management application is for determining which materials are not within inventory and generating orders for the needed materials.

16-42. (Canceled)

43. (New) A computer-implemented method for facilitating managing a job, the method comprising the step of:

generating bid packages for a job and for receiving completed bids;

storing at least one previous bid that was made on the job;

awarding the job based on the at least one previous bid;

defining at least one task within the job and determining whether the task should be accomplished by a contractor;

assigning personnel to the at least one task;

assigning any needed materials to the at least one task;

receiving updates on the status of the at least one task via an interface; and

receiving input from the contractor as to completed tasks and billings,

wherein if the billings vary from a billing expectation ~~of the system~~, the variations are sent by a billing and reporting application to a supervisor for approval, wherein upon approval of the supervisor or no variations, the billing and reporting application prepares an invoice for payment, wherein the above steps are executed by a computer.

44. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 43, further comprising assigning a cost to the at least one task.

45. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 44, further comprising assigning labor and material costs to the at least one task.

46. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 43, further comprising providing a contract template.

47. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 46, further comprising generating the bid packages by adding contract work items and contractor information to the contract template.

48. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 43, further comprising configuring the at least one task into activities and for chronologically scheduling the activities based on desired completion dates of the activities.
49. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 43, further comprising assigning personnel to the at least one task based on worker profiles indicating availability of the personnel.
50. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 43, further comprising tracking materials within inventory.
51. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 43, further comprising assigning materials in inventory to the at least one task.
52. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 43, further comprising determining which materials are not within inventory and generating orders for the needed materials.